



PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CIVIL PENALTIES ISSUED AT ENFORCEMENT HEARING

Olympia – Chair of the Public Disclosure Commission, Michael Connelly, found one lobbyist, a Seattle School Board Member and a candidate for Kent City Council in violation of state Public Disclosure laws during brief enforcement hearings held Thursday in Olympia.

Irene Stewart, School Director for the Seattle School District, was found in violation of state law for failing to timely file a Statement of Personal Financial Affairs and assessed a civil penalty of \$150. The annual report was due on or before April 15, 2004. Stewart received a warning letter on October 20, 2004 requesting her to file the missing report and a second letter on November 15, 2004 providing her an opportunity to forego an enforcement hearing by stipulating to a violation and penalty.

Debra Raplee, candidate for the Kent City Council in 2003, was found to have violated state law by sponsoring false political advertising during her campaign for public office. Raplee produced political advertising that stated her opponent “voted to approve the Salary Commission and increase the mayor’s salary by 26%” when in fact the salary increase was made by an independent Salary Commission. Connelly found that she acted with reckless disregard as to the truth or falsity of her statement and assessed a civil penalty of \$500 with \$300 suspended on the condition she not be found in violation of the disclosure law during the next two years.

John Stone, lobbyist for the Valiree Jackson Foundation, was found in violation of state law for failure to timely file the required monthly lobbyist expense report for September of 2004 (PDC form L-2) and assessed a civil penalty of \$100.

The enforcement action was taken after Stone received a warning letter from the Commission for missing his June 2004 L-2 report and a second letter was sent with an opportunity to stipulate to a violation and civil penalty for missing his September 2004 report.

Persons found in violation at the hearing will have an opportunity to ask the full, five-member Commission to review the action taken by the Chair.

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